



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Department of Public Health  
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619

## UFFI Information Sheet

The information is provided in accordance with Chapter 728 of the acts of 1985, to enable the interested public to compare the levels of formaldehyde in the air in dwellings insulated with Urea Formaldehyde Foam Insulation (UFFI) with the levels in dwelling not insulated with UFFI, and with the levels in the outdoor air. The Department of Public Health did not participate in any of the studies that produced the data below, and therefore makes no representations as to the accuracy of this data or the health risks associated with a particular level of formaldehyde.

The data below compare the average levels of formaldehyde in the air of UFFI homes, non-UFFI homes and the outdoor air. Levels of formaldehyde are measured in parts per million (ppm).

### Average Formaldehyde Levels in Air

	Canadian Study <sup>1</sup>	EPA Study <sup>2</sup>	CPSC Study <sup>3</sup>
UFFI Homes	0.054 ppm	0.073 ppm*	0.07 ppm***
Non-UFFI Homes	0.036 ppm	0.03 ppm**	0.027 ppm
Outdoor Air	less than 0.01 ppm	0.005 ppm (urban)	0.01 ppm
		0.0004 ppm (rural)	

<sup>1</sup>Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada, Final Report of the National Testing Survey, 1983.

<sup>2</sup>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Register, May 23, 1984, "Formaldehyde: Determination of Significant Risk."

<sup>3</sup>U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Revised Carcinogenic Risk Assessment for UFFI, Murray S. Cohn, 1981.

\*10.3 percent of all UFFI homes registered levels of formaldehyde exceeding 0.1 ppm (age of UFFI installation unknown)

\*\*2.85 percent of all non-UFFI homes register levels of formaldehyde exceeding 0.10 ppm.

\*\*\*Determination in the laboratory under simulated conditions.

When reviewing this data, please keep in mind the following:

Emissions of formaldehyde from UFFI tend to decrease over time. Therefore, formaldehyde levels in dwellings with older UFFI installations are generally lower than levels in dwellings soon after UFFI installation.

An increase in heat and/or humidity will cause an increase in emissions of formaldehyde from UFFI. This means that formaldehyde levels can vary on a daily or seasonal basis.

Formaldehyde can be detected in non-UFFI homes because other household products, such as particleboard, plywood and fabrics, may contain formaldehyde and are potential sources of formaldehyde offgassing.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has determined that the following persons may apply for and receive payment from the UFFI Trust Fund for the reasonable cost of removal of UFFI, or for other remedial relief:

The owner of a dwelling containing UFFI when approved air testing shows that the formaldehyde level in the air of any room tested in the dwelling is greater than 0.10 ppm;

The owner of a dwelling containing UFFI when an occupant has suffered adverse health effects; and

The owner or former owner of a dwelling who removed UFFI from the dwelling before July 1, 1986 for any of the following reasons:

- a. the formaldehyde level was greater than 0.10ppm;
- b. an occupant suffered adverse health effects; or
- c. a valid economic reason.

***For more information or questions write to:***

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Department of Public Health  
Division of Community Sanitation UFFI Program  
305 South Street Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

For any questions concerning the above information, call the Massachusetts Department of Public Health at (617) 983-6762